

# **Hull City Council**

# **Childcare Sufficiency**

# **Assessment**

# **2024**

**Early Years Standards & Improvement Team**

# Contents

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Purpose of the report
- 1.2 Childcare Sufficiency Duty
- 1.3 Methodology

## 2. The Childcare Market

- 2.1 Supply of childcare in Hull
- 2.2 Quality of childcare
- 2.3 Accessibility of childcare
- 2.4 Childcare places by ward
- 2.5 Cost of childcare
- 2.6 Childcare flexibility
- 2.7 Wraparound childcare
- 2.8 Holiday childcare

## 3. Parent Feedback

## 4. Early Education and Childcare Funding

- 4.1 Working parent expanded offer
- 4.2 2 year old disadvantage offer
- 4.3 3 and 4 year old universal offer
- 4.4 Working parent extended offer

## 5. Demand for Childcare

- 5.1 Supply of childcare
- 5.2 Readiness for September 2025

## 6. Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)

## 7. Information for parents

## 8. Sufficiency Action Plan

## 9. Summary

- 9.1 Take up of early education and childcare
- 9.2 Government childcare expansions
- 9.3 Wraparound childcare
- 9.4 Marketing and promotion
- 9.5 Going forward

## **1.1 Purpose of the report**

This annual report has been produced to support the local authority in its statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents/carers or parents/carers who are studying or training for employment. The report will provide a robust market research tool for existing and potential new childcare providers looking to enter the market to meet the needs of working families to support the local economy.

## **1.2 Childcare sufficiency duty**

The Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on all local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as reasonably practicable, for working parents or parents who are studying or training for employment with children aged 0-14 years (up to 18 years for SEND children).

A Childcare Sufficiency Assessment measures the nature and extent of the demand and supply of childcare. For this purpose, it includes private day nurseries, pre-schools, childminders, school nurseries, wraparound provision as well as the number of places providing the early education and childcare entitlements for eligible children within the local authority. It identifies any gaps in the local childcare market and underpins the creation of a citywide action plan. To ensure there are sufficient early education and childcare places, and that children have access to high quality early years provision, improving outcomes for children.

## **1.3 Methodology**

Childcare sufficiency can be considerably difficult to predict or quantify. Participation in childcare is not a statutory requirement and uptake is based purely on parental choice. Parents/carers who choose to use a registered childcare provider can access any provider across the city and are not restricted by geographical area or local authority boundaries. This flexibility is vital for working parents/carers to access childcare that fits around their working commitments either on their daily commute or route to work rather than close to their home address.

The range of hours families use varies significantly, they decide on the number of hours based on individual circumstances especially if they fall outside the criteria for the government funded 15- and 30-hours early education and childcare entitlement (known as 'funded hours'). Some parents/carers do not use the full amount of funded early education and childcare hours available to them and some choose to stretch their entitlement taking less hours each week but over 52 weeks rather than 38 weeks each year. These variations make forecasting the sufficient childcare places needed extremely difficult and can vary across all wards in the city.

The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) inspects and regulates services for the care of children and young people. Ofsted registration allows childcare providers to respond to demand by varying their age range to utilise the space and staffing they have available. This flexibility further complicates calculating the supply of childcare in

the city as the capacity is constantly shifting by responding to the demand of the local childcare market.

To simplify these complex issues this report will make use of current statistics and historical data to forecast the demand and supply of childcare.

The uptake of the early education and childcare funded entitlements is collected as primary data taken directly from the headcounts submitted to the local authority by the childcare providers and schools. The childcare providers and schools are also surveyed each term to ascertain their capacity, considering staffing availability, number of occupied places, and number of unoccupied places.

## 2 The childcare market

### 2.1 Supply of childcare in Hull

The Family Information Service (FIS) sits within Hull City Council's Early Years Team and holds comprehensive data for all Ofsted registered childcare which is updated daily.

This data is used to undertake an in-depth analysis of the current 'supply' of childcare in the city including;

- Total number and breakdown of childcare places.
- Quality of childcare across the city by latest Ofsted inspection outcome.
- Insight into the sustainability of childcare.
- Current cost of childcare by area and provider type.

**Table 1: Number of childcare providers by provider type**

<b>Type of Provision</b>	<b>No. of Providers</b>
Childminders (including CM Agency)	44
Day Nurseries	51
Out of School Clubs	9
Pre-School Playgroups	10
Holiday Schemes	9
Maintained Nursery Schools	1
Academy & Maintained Nursery	
Classes (Inc 1 Independent school)	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>

Source: FIS Primary Data – November 2024

Since 2022/23 there has been a net loss of 2 childminders.

## 2.2 Quality of Childcare

All childcare providers must register with and are inspected by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services, and Skills (Ofsted). All childcare providers are graded against the same criteria which result in an overall grade on the quality of their provision.

In 2024 schools and childcare provision, including childminders, will be graded under one of four possible grades; Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate. Termly statistical releases from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and Ofsted compare inspection outcomes against statistical neighbours, regional authorities, and national averages.

Typically, childminders who do not have any children on-site during the inspection receive a 'Met' or 'Unmet' judgement. This shows if the childminder is meeting Ofsted requirements but does not reflect the quality of the provision. For this report, we have recorded providers with 'Met' as 'Good'. In addition to the childminders included in the chart above we have 2 childminders who have joined a Childminder Agency (CMA). These childminders are recorded as 'Good' as the agency has received an Ofsted grade of 'Met'.

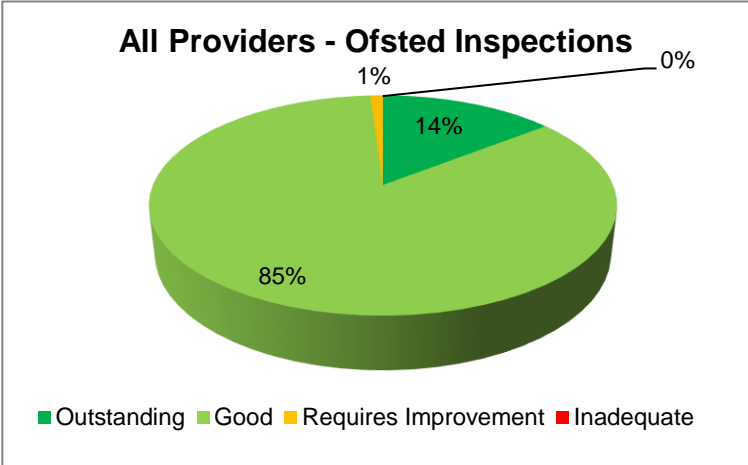
Providers awaiting their first inspection are excluded from our Ofsted profile until they receive their first Ofsted inspection. Nursery classes and school-based provision are inspected under the school Ofsted inspection.

Ofsted is responsible for the inspection of all services providing childcare and early education. The Early Years Team role is to support and challenge local providers to improve their outcomes and monitor and raise standards across the city. The quality of the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector in Hull remains high, see charts 1 to 4, exceeding regional and national averages as follows:

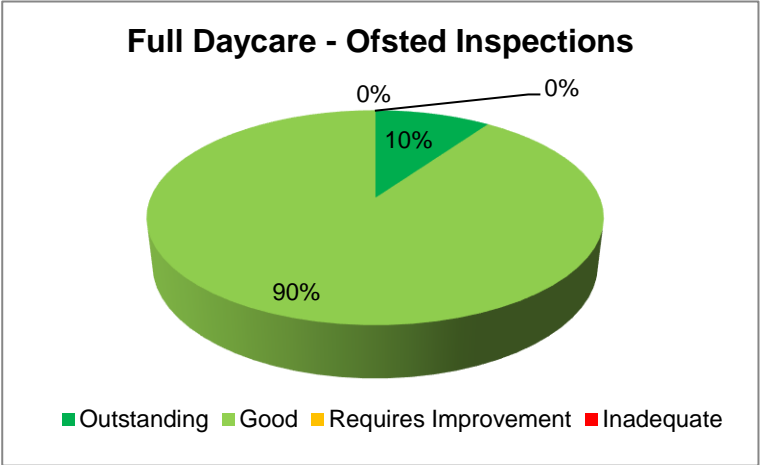
- 100% of childminders in Hull are judged to be Good or Outstanding which is above the March 2024 National Average of 98%.
- 98% of nurseries and pre-school playgroups in Hull are Good or Outstanding 1% above the March 2024 National Average of 97%.

The Early Years Team will continue to support and challenge local providers to ensure the quality of provision remains high.

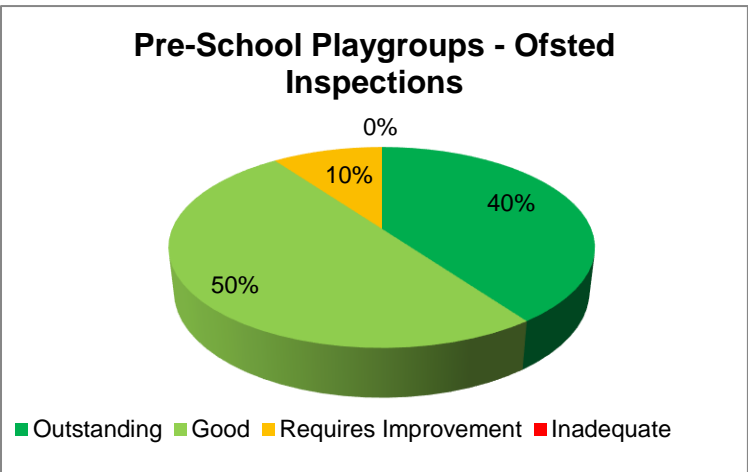
**Chart 1: Ofsted outcome of all providers**



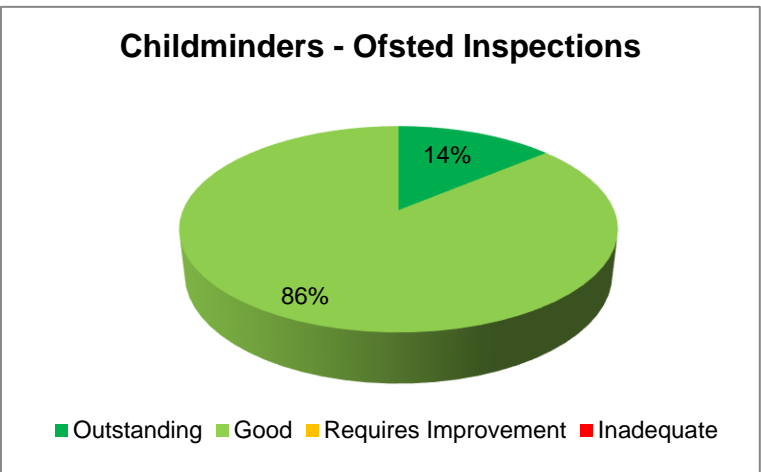
**Chart 2: Ofsted outcome of full daycare**



**Chart 3: Ofsted outcome of pre-schools**



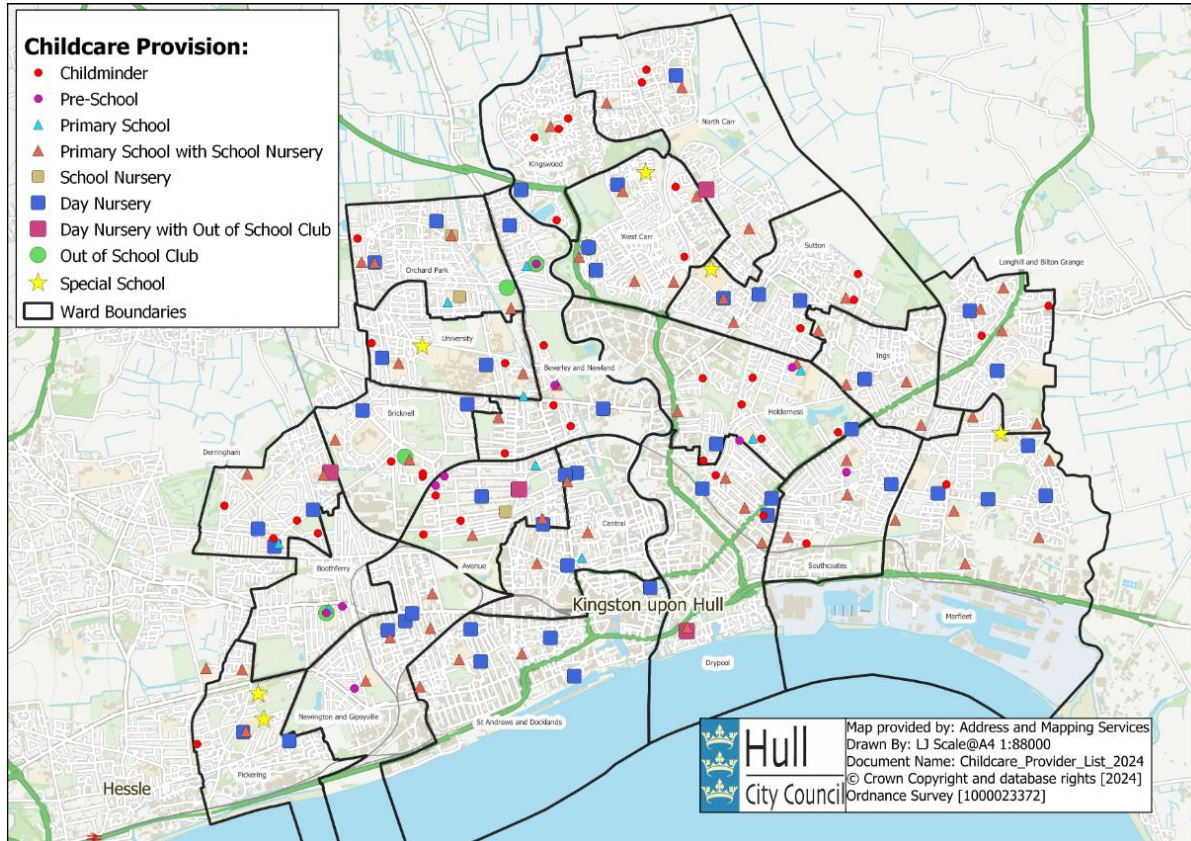
**Chart 4: Ofsted outcome of childminders**



Source: Ofsted Data November 2024

## 2.3 Accessibility of Childcare

Map 1: Childcare provision by ward



Source: FIS Distribution List, primary data, September 2024. Map created by GIS Data Team 2024

Map 1 shows an overview of the childcare provision in the city. North Carr and Marfleet show vast areas with no provision due to these being industrial/manufacturing businesses. Boothferry also has a low provision, however, places are available in the bordering wards of Newington and Gipsyville and Derringham. In these wards parents may have to rely on transport to access in alternative wards or across the border in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

## 2.4 Childcare places by ward

### Provision for children under 5 years old

The following table provides an overview of the childcare capacity in each ward of the city and the number of children aged 0 to 4. We must note that there will be fluctuation in the birth data due to migration.

**Table 2: Capacity of places available for 0-4 population**

Ward	0-4 Year Old Childcare Capacity					
	0-4 Population Data by Birth	PTE Childminder Places	PTE Private, Voluntary and Independent Places	PTE Maintained Nursery Places	Total PTE Places	% of Capacity for Population
Avenue	611	42	444	111	596	98%
Beverley and Newland	656	22	222	78	321	49%
Boothferry	504	0	171	0	171	34%
Bricknell	274	18	255	78	351	128%
Central	671	0	396	110	506	75%
Derringham	550	41	386	180	607	110%
Drypool	628	18	318	158	494	79%
Holderness	473	62	302	130	494	104%
Ings	390	0	84	208	292	75%
Kingswood	680	42	0	0	42	6%
Longhill and Bilton Grange	594	8	182	195	385	65%
Marfleet	856	0	452	338	790	92%
Newington and Gipsyville	1006	0	349	222	571	57%
North Carr	922	17	295	414	725	79%
Orchard Park	871	0	108	420	528	61%
Pickering	381	10	156	182	348	91%
Southcoates	711	10	174	192	376	53%
St Andrews and Docklands	913	0	397	182	579	63%
Sutton	531	20	302	182	504	95%
University	425	12	410	104	526	124%
West Carr	501	16	240	344	600	120%
<b>Hull</b>	<b>13,148</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>5,642</b>	<b>3,827</b>	<b>9,807</b>	<b>75%</b>

Source: Birth data from Public Health Intelligence Team 2024. Capacity, primary data, taken directly from all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Hull in September 2024.

The number of places for each provider type represents the available part time equivalent places each setting could offer as of September 2024. It is important to note that most children access part time, however the hours in which a child attends varies.

Parents often stretch their funding entitlements over 52 weeks of the year using either 11 hours or 22 hours per week. The take up of part time hours also vary by setting. For example, a part time place in a day nursery or childminder would normally be 25 hours (5 hrs AM and 5 hrs PM). Where at a school or pre-school a part time place is often 15 hours per week (3 hrs AM and 3 hrs PM).

The data demonstrates that 75% of the 0-4 population could access a part time place. There are wards that have greater capacity than the population but will likely support



children from other wards. As identified in Map 1, Boothferry has low provision, this is also indicated in table 2 with provision supporting 34% of the Boothferry population. We are also aware that Kingswood has low capacity, with only childminders registered in the ward.

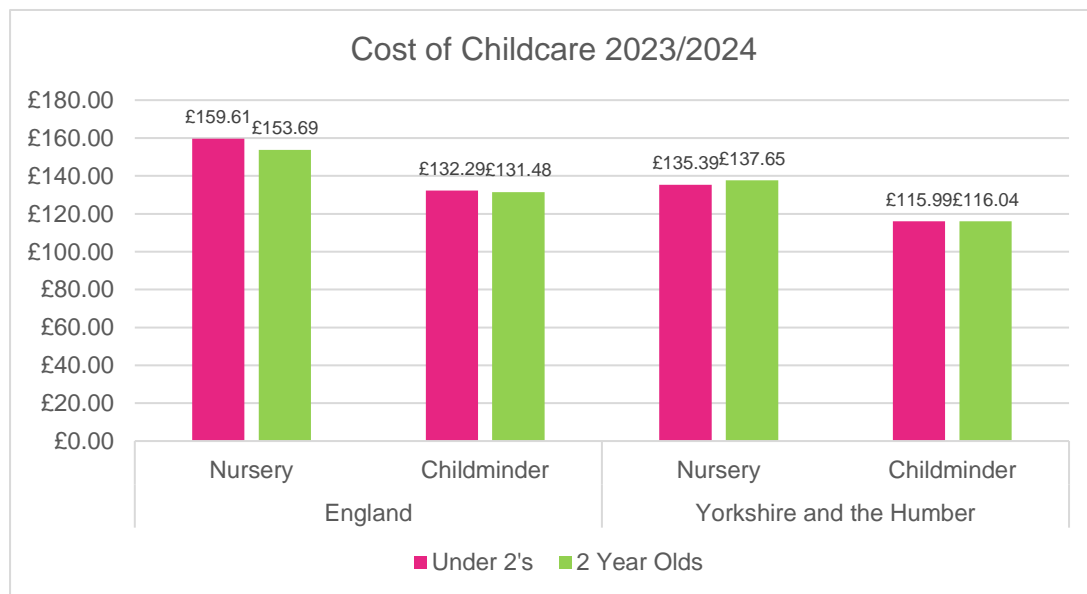
In both wards many parents access provision in neighbouring wards and across the boundary in the East Riding of Yorkshire. You will see later in this report that both wards currently have vacant places, although the Early Years Team will continue to assess the availability of these places.

## 2.5 Cost of childcare

As with all goods and services childcare costs increase with inflation and each year we see a rise in the cost of childcare. The Coram Family and Childcare conduct an annual childcare survey. In the 2024 survey they reported a 7.4% rise in childcare costs for under 2's in Great Britain since 2023. This increase is 1.8% greater than the increase in 2022 to 2023. For 2 year olds the increase is 6.2% since 2023.

Each year the report gathers information from all local authorities on the costs of childcare in their area. The Coram Family and Childcare Survey highlights how the cost of childcare varies across the country. We expect the cost of childcare will increase annually.

**Chart 5: Cost of childcare across England and Yorkshire and the Humber**



Source: Coram Family and Childcare Survey 2024

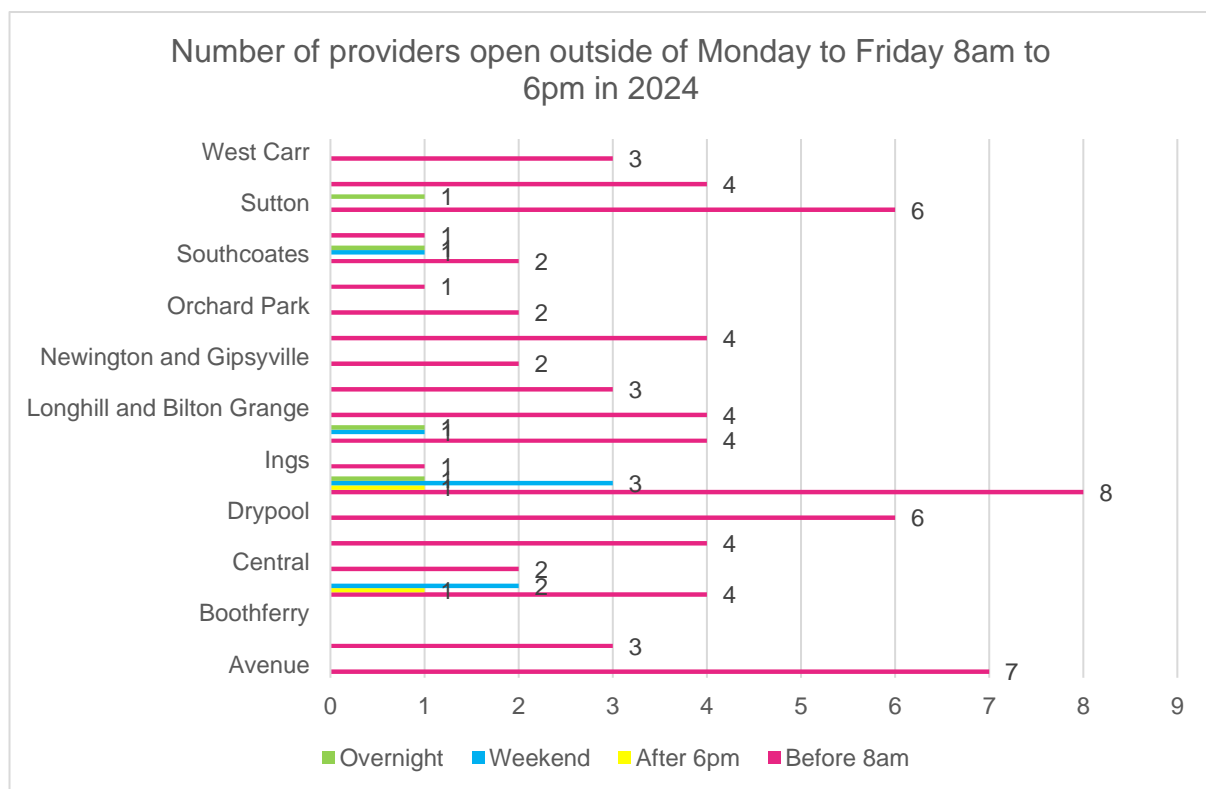
The data shows that, on average, childminders in Yorkshire and the Humber charge 15% less than a nursery. Over the years we have seen a reduction in the number of childminders. The government funds all providers the same regardless of provider type. As more children become eligible for government funded childcare up to September 2025, it may encourage more childminders to the market.

Based on the data it would cost parents on average £544 per month for 25 hours of childcare for a child under the age of 2 in Yorkshire and the Humber. From September 2024 eligible working parents with children from aged 9 months can receive up to 15 hours of government funded childcare per week, which is increasing to 30 hours from September 2025. This will significantly reduce the cost to parents.

## 2.6 Childcare flexibility outside of normal opening hours

Childcare is commonly offered around typical working hours i.e., Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm. However, some working parents require childcare outside of these times to fit around their daily lives.

**Chart 6: Flexible childcare availability**



Source: FIS primary data gathered directly from childminders and PVI's in Summer 2024

Providers are encouraged to offer places outside typical hours to support working parents/carers. The above chart shows the number of providers in each ward offering specific places outside typical working hours.

Many childcare providers are open before 8am. There are childminders that offer childcare during weekends and overnight. There is limited childcare available beyond 6pm.

The decline in childminder registrations and increased home working has significantly reduced the number of childcare providers offering places outside atypical hours. There is still some demand for childcare outside atypical hours but feedback from providers suggests they are not at the level of demand to remain sustainable.

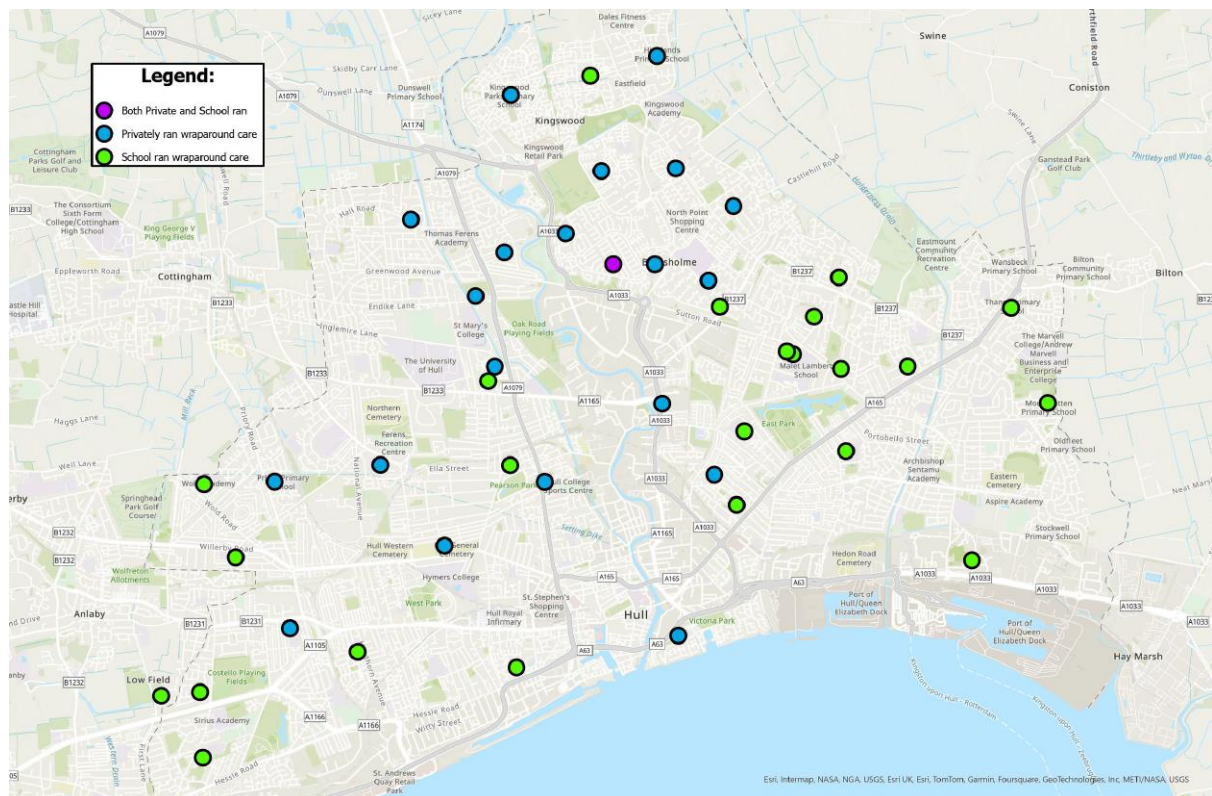
## 2.7 Wraparound childcare

Wraparound childcare is before and after school care for primary aged children during term time. The definition of wraparound childcare is provision from 8am until 6pm Monday to Friday during term time. Some providers do close slightly earlier than 6pm in line with their local demand. The Department of Education introduced the National Wraparound Childcare Programme in September 2024. The programme is to financially support the expansion and creation of provision in or around every primary school, between September 2024 and March 2026 where there is no or limited provision available for working parents.

We are working closely with local primary schools and out of school clubs to increase the availability of wraparound childcare across the city. As of November 2024, the available grant funding has supported the increase of 884 places.

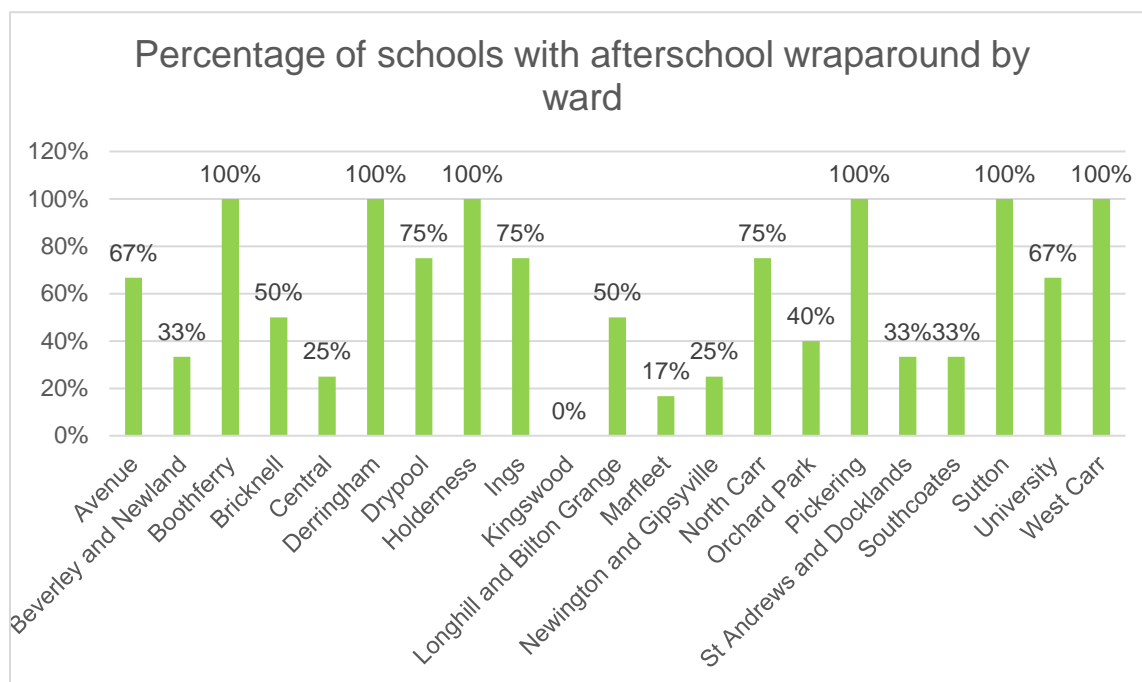
We know that 100% of Hull primary schools offer breakfast provision from 8am or earlier.

**Map 2: Primary schools with afterschool wraparound care**



Source: FIS Distribution List, primary data, November 2024. Map created by GIS Data Team 2024

**Chart 7: Afterschool wraparound provision by ward**



Source: FIS database, primary data received directly from the schools, PVI's, and OOSC November 2024

Across the city 43 (61%) primary schools have after school wraparound childcare available to their primary school aged children, either run by the school or by a private provider on site or close by. As well as the 61%, there are also childminders who pick up from a range of schools across the city. As reported by the Department of Education on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 around 60% of primary schools in England offer wraparound care before and after school.

(Assessed on 18/11/24 [online] via

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/09/16/before-and-after-school-childcare-what-is-wraparound-childcare/>).

As a local authority we are aware of higher areas of deprivation where demand for paid childcare is low. In these areas primary schools reported no demand for after school wraparound care. These are Central, Longhill and Bilton Grange, Marfleet, Newington and Gipsyville, Orchard Park, and Southcoates. We will continue to assess the demand for wraparound care and inform parents of their 'right to request' as and when they contact the Family Information Service.

Applications for the National Wraparound Childcare Programme will close at the end of 2024 as the Department of Education expects that all projects are active for a minimum of 4 terms up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

## 2.8 Holiday childcare

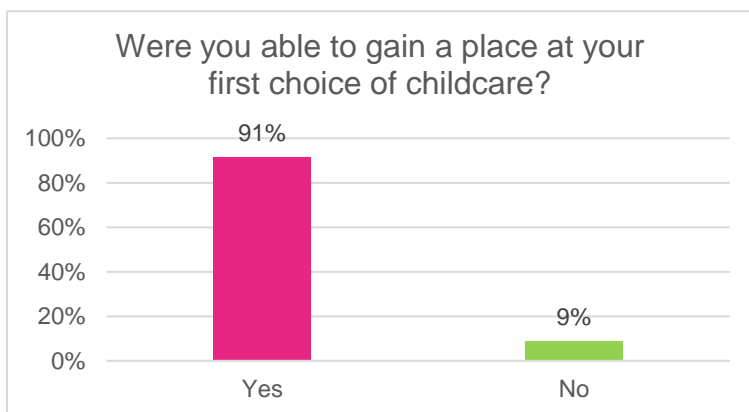
Holiday childcare is care predominantly for primary school and pre-school aged children during the 13 weeks of school holidays across the year. In the city there are 9 Ofsted registered childcare providers providing holiday childcare. In total they have the capacity to care for 288 full time children. 8 of the 9 providers have reported regular vacancies across the holidays. The average cost of one day in holiday provision in Hull is £35 (*Primary data directly from the providers in November 2024*). Alongside the Ofsted registered childcare providers there are also a range of targeted activities accessible across the city provided by private companies.

## 3. Parent feedback

In September 2024 the Early Years Team surveyed parents/carers who currently use Ofsted registered childcare, of which 636 parents responded.

### Survey Results

#### Chart 8: Childcare choice



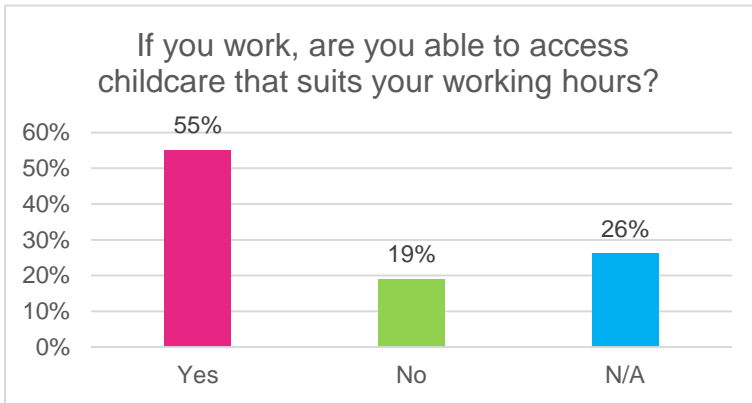
#### How satisfied are you with the care and education at your childcare provider?

Average Rating

**4.61**

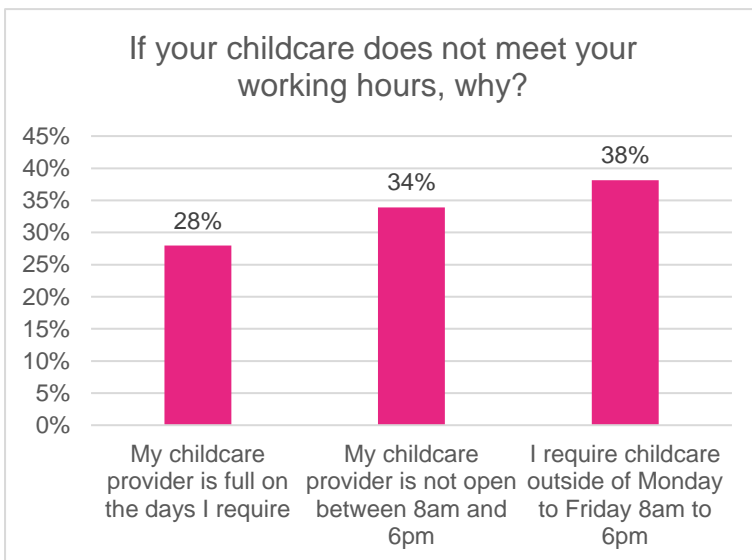


**Chart 9: Childcare and working hours**



**81%** were either able to access the childcare that suits their working hours or they do not work.

**Chart 10: Childcare not meeting working hours**



**How informed do you feel regarding the government childcare expansion and your childcare funding entitlements for working families, including wraparound (before and afterschool care)?**

Average Rating

**3.80**



The survey outcomes were positive. 91% were able to gain a place at their first choice of provision and parents were very satisfied with the care and education delivered by their childcare provider.

19% of parents were not able to access childcare that meets their working hours. The response as to the reasoning was similar across the 3 options. 38% require childcare outside of 8am and 6pm. As we can see from the childcare flexibility data above in chart 6 there are a range of providers across the city open prior to 8am but very limited availability beyond 6pm. The demand for childcare beyond 6pm is low and therefore most provision beyond this time is not sustainable. 34% said that their childcare provider was not open between 8am and 6pm. Most day nurseries and childminders are open between 8am and 6pm. However, we know many pre-schools and 39% of primary schools are not open beyond school hours. We will continue to work with these schools and where there is demand we will fund additional places to support the working parents expansion (up to 30 hours from September 2025).

There was an average rating of 3.8 out of 5 in terms of how informed parents feel regarding the government childcare expansion and childcare funding entitlements. Although this rating is good, we would like to see an increase in parents understanding. We will continue to meet and share information with childcare providers, Family Hubs, health visitors, social work teams, children and family professionals, mums and tots groups, employers, and recruitment organisations to increase awareness. As well as through social media and local advertising.

## 4. Early Education and Childcare Funding

### Current offers

- 9 months to 2 years – introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 15 hours per week  
**Known as** the under 2's working parents expanded offer
- 2 year olds – introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 15 hours per week  
**Known as** 2 year old working parent expanded offer
- 2 year olds – 2 year olds disadvantage route 15 hours per week  
**Known as** 2 year old disadvantage route
- 3 and 4 year olds universal hours – 15 hours per week  
**Known as** 3 and 4 year old universal offer
- 3 and 4 year old extended offer up to 30 hours per week  
**Known as** 3 and 4 year old extended offer

Working parents who are eligible for the expanded and extended hours must apply online via [www.GOV.uk](http://www.GOV.uk) and register for Tax Free Childcare. Those confirmed as eligible will be issued with an 11 digit eligibility code which they must present to their chosen childcare provider the term before the child starts. Unlike the continuous 15 hours universal offer and the 2 year old disadvantage offer, the working parents codes are only valid for 3 months; therefore, parents are responsible for reconfirmation of their codes to continue to access the eligible hours.

## 4.1 Working parent expanded offer

Eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to 2 years can access up to 15 hours per week over 38 weeks per year (570 hours) or 11 hours stretched over 52 weeks of the year to meet the needs of the family. This offer was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 for 2 year olds and increased on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 for those aged 9 months plus. From September 2025 this will increase to 30 hours per week (1,140 hours per year).

On average based on the number of 3 year olds eligible for and accessing the 30 hours extended offer, we know that around 32% of the annual population would be eligible for the working parents expanded offer. Therefore, based on the population, the estimated eligible number of under 2's is 1,375 and the eligible number of 2 year olds is 1,100.

### Under 2's

**Table 3: Take up of the under 2's working parents offer in Hull by ward.**

Ward	Birth Data for children aged 9 months to 2 years	Funded Children Autumn 2024	Percentage take up
Avenue	185	49	26%
Beverley and Newland	218	45	21%
Boothferry	146	32	22%
Bricknell	73	25	34%
Central	220	11	5%
Derringham	151	33	22%
Drypool	196	39	20%
Holderness	143	49	34%
Ings	105	49	47%
Kingswood	190	102	54%
Longhill and Bilton Grange	174	34	20%
Marfleet	257	43	17%
Newington and Gipsyville	295	39	13%
North Carr	299	60	20%
Orchard Park	227	27	12%
Pickering	101	12	12%
Southcoates	213	43	20%
St Andrews and Docklands	302	12	4%
Sutton	159	50	31%
University	111	23	21%
West Carr	149	24	16%
East Riding	0	53	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3914</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>22%</b>

Source: Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2024



There are 854 children aged 9 months to 2 years accessing a funded place in Hull, of which 53 live in the East Riding. Therefore, there are 801 Hull children in Hull settings.

The East Riding local authority have informed us that 127 Hull 'working parent' children under the age of 2 accessed East Riding settings in Autumn 2024. Therefore, a total of 928 Hull children accessed a funded place.

The anticipated number of eligible working families with under 2's 1305 (based on the birth rate of  $3914/3 = 1,305$ ).

The Department of Education confirmed the number of code applications for under 2's in the Autumn Term was 1,120 of which 1,005 were validated (90%).

- 1120/1305 represents **86%** of potential eligible families applied for codes.
- 928/1305 represents **71%** of potential eligible families accessed provision.

This is exceptional, considering that this is the 1st term of the new expanded childcare offer for working parents with children aged 9 months to 2 years. There is no data to compare the national average take up at this time.

## 2 year olds

**Table 4: Take up of the 2 year old working parents offer in Hull by ward.**

Ward	Annual Birth Data	Funded Children Autumn 2024 PVI's	Funded Children Autumn 2024 Maintained	Take up Percentage
Avenue	138	45	1	33%
Beverley and Newland	172	36	4	23%
Boothferry	116	26	0	22%
Bricknell	66	37	0	56%
Central	144	17	0	12%
Derringham	132	31	3	26%
Drypool	139	35	0	25%
Holderness	107	61	0	57%
Ings	104	33	0	32%
Kingswood	153	70	0	46%
Longhill and Bilton Grange	118	43	0	36%
Marfleet	207	48	0	23%
Newington and Gipsyville	240	46	0	19%
North Carr	198	65	1	33%
Orchard Park	202	23	5	14%
Pickering	90	12	0	13%
Southcoates	180	39	1	22%
St Andrews and Docklands	209	20	0	10%
Sutton	119	61	0	51%
University	96	19	3	23%
West Carr	115	26	0	23%
East Riding		43	1	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>3045</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>28%</b>

Source: Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2024

There are 855 2 year old children accessing a 'working family' funded place in Hull, of which 44 live in the East Riding. Therefore, there are 811 Hull children in Hull settings.

The East Riding local authority have informed us that 125 Hull 'working parent' children aged 2 accessed an East Riding setting in Autumn 2024. Therefore, a total of 936 Hull children accessed a funded place.

The anticipated number of eligible working families with 2 year olds was 1,100 (a 3<sup>rd</sup> of the annual population based on uptake of the extended 30 hour offer).

- 936/1100 represents **85%** of potential eligible families accessed provision.

This is exceptional, considering that this is the 2nd term of the new expanded childcare offer for working parents with 2 year olds. There is no data to compare the national average take up at this time.

## 4.2 2 year old disadvantage offer

The term after a child turns 2 who meet the criteria listed below could access up to 15 hours per week over 38 weeks per year (570 hours) or 11 hours stretched over 52 weeks. To be eligible for the 2 year old disadvantage offer the parent(s)/child must meet one of the below:

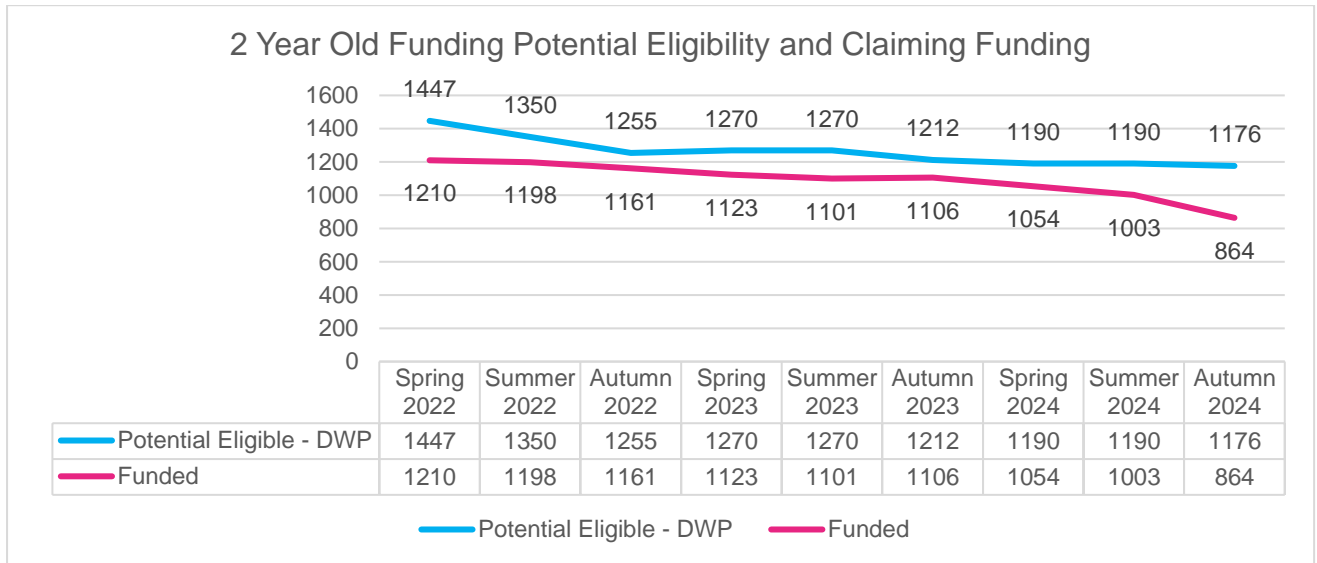
- Are in receipt of certain benefits with a threshold income limit of £15,400.
- The child is looked after by the local authority.
- The child has an Education, Health & Care plan.
- The child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.
- The child is no longer looked after by the LA as a result of a Special Guardianship order or Child Arrangements Order or Adoption order.
- The parents have no recourse to public funds and are under the threshold of earning criteria for this category.

To apply for the 2 year disadvantage offer parents/carers are to apply online directly to the Family Information Service via [www.hull.gov.uk/children/two-year-old-funding](http://www.hull.gov.uk/children/two-year-old-funding)

The tables below highlight the number of children identified on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) 6 weekly return compared to the number of children accessing provision, following a confirmed eligible place.

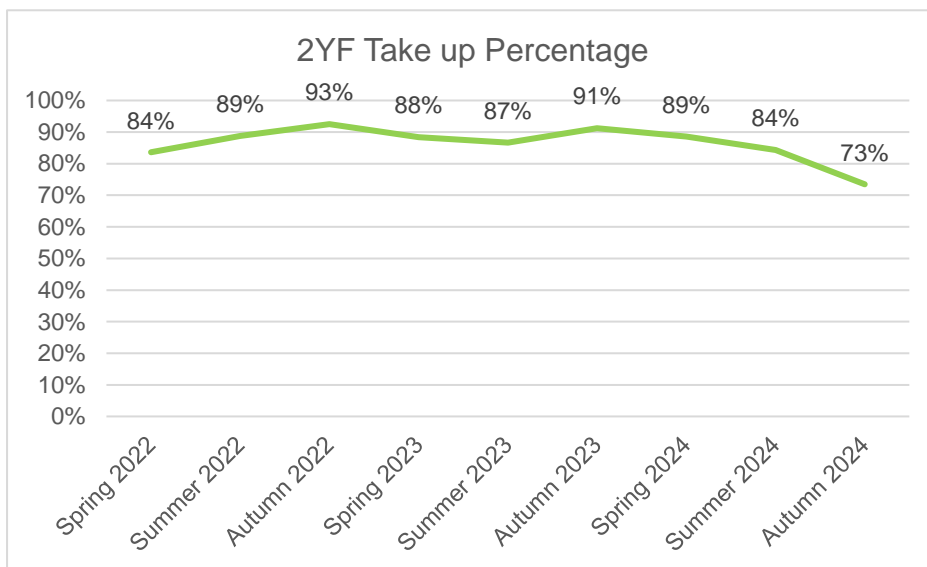
**Chart 11:**

**Number of potential eligible 2 year olds and take up of those claiming funding**



Source: Number of potential eligible children from the Autumn 2024 DWP list and Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2024

**Chart 12: Take up percentage of potential eligible children and those claiming the disadvantage 2 year funding**



Source: Number of potential eligible children from the Autumn 2024 DWP list and Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2024

The potential eligible 2 year olds on the DWP 6 weekly return has gradually reduced, which could indicate that more parents are now in work or in receipt of benefits that exceed the threshold income of £15,400.

In Autumn 2024 73% of potentially eligible 2 year olds accessed the 2 year funding. The national average reported by the Department of Education based on the January 2024 Census was 75% across the year. This term is therefore lower than the national average.

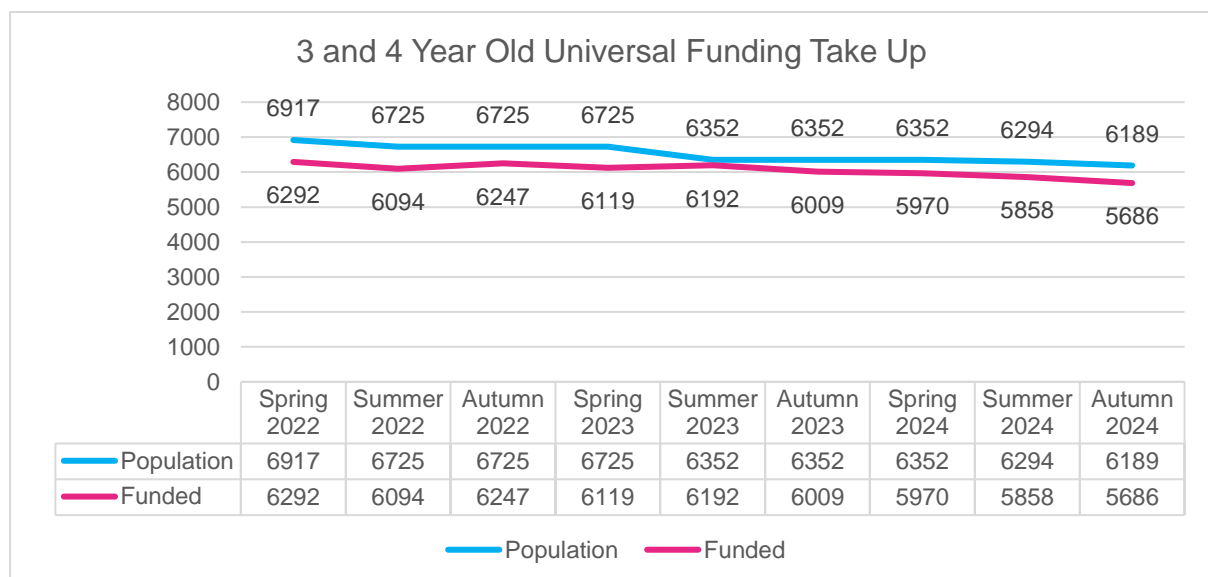
We have also identified since the introduction of the working parents offer for 2 year olds the number of children accessing via the 2 year old disadvantage route has decreased. This could be due to parents applying for the working families expanded offer as some will be entitled via both routes.

### 4.3 3 and 4 year old universal offer

All 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to early education and childcare for 15 hours per week over 38 weeks per year (570 hours) or 11 hours stretched over 52 weeks of the year to meet the needs of the family.

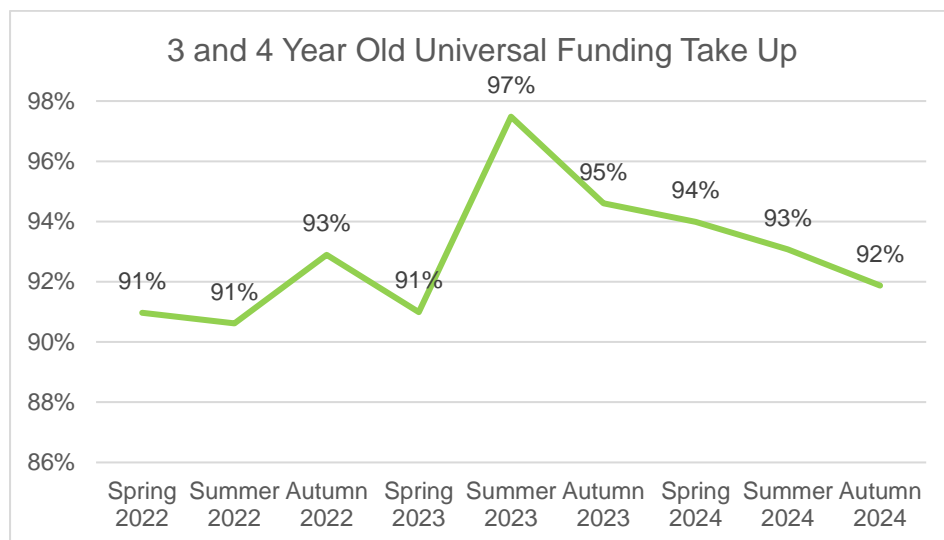
The tables below show the birth data of 3 and 4 years olds in the city of Hull in comparison to those that are taking up their funded place and the percentage of that uptake.

**Chart 13: 3 and 4 year old population and take up of those claiming universal funding**



Source: and Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2024

**Chart 14: Take up percentage of the population and those claiming universal funding**



Source: and Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2024

Although families can choose to use their entitlement, the local authority is committed to promoting and encouraging families to access their child’s universal offer. The Early Years Team work closely with colleagues in the East Riding of Yorkshire to ensure all children in the region have access to their entitlement in whichever local authority they choose to participate.

The take up percentage is this term, based on the birth data population, is 92%. This is lower than our previous Autumn Terms. Autumn 2023 was 95% and Autumn 2022 was 93%. The national average reported by the Department of Education based on the January 2024 Census was 95% across the year. This term is therefore lower than the national average.

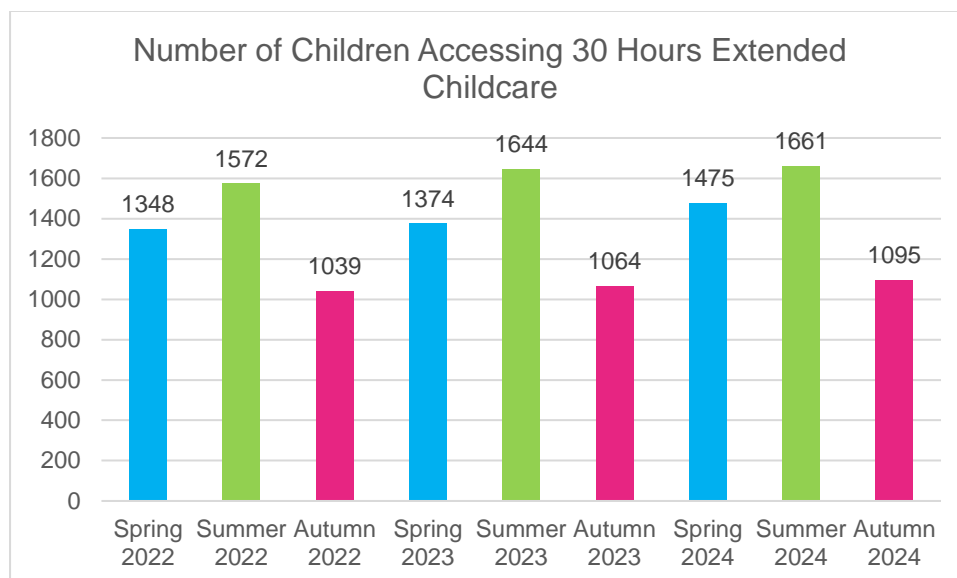
The 2700 4 year olds reported as accessing a full time school place by the school data team cannot be validated for accuracy until the January 2025 Early Years Census is completed. If the number is higher this would increase the percentage above 92% and possibly justify why it is lower than the previous year.

The Early Years team work with the Family Hubs, health visitors, childcare providers, and meet with parents and professionals at local events across the city to regularly engage with parents to provide information and support to help them access their entitlements. We also advertise on social media, and via local channels such as newsletters and Hull and East Riding Mumbler. We will continue to engage, but also visit a greater number of local community family groups throughout the city to support the hard to reach parents. We have preparations to conduct a promotional campaign in Spring 2025 to promote the range of funding entitlements. Our website has been developed over the last 6 months to support parents to access information at their leisure providing relevant information on early education and childcare that is clear and easy to understand. The website is accessible via: <https://hull.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/Live/SynergyWeb/FISHHomepage.aspx>

## 4.4 Working parent extended offer

Eligible working parents of children aged 3 and 4 years can access an additional 15 hours over and above the universal offer over 38 weeks per year (1140 hours) or 22 hours stretched over 52 weeks of the year to meet the needs of the family.

**Chart 15: Number of children accessing 30 hours extended childcare**



Source: and Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2024

The take up for the extended childcare offer has gradually increased across the last 3 years. Based on the annual birth data there are 3,056 3 year olds. In Autumn 2024 1,083 3 years olds accessed the extended offer.  $1,083/3,056 \times 100 = 35\%$ . Therefore 35% of the 3 year old population are accessing the working parents expanded offer in Autumn 2024.

## 5. Demand for Childcare

Demand for childcare can change rapidly; vacancies can change daily and can be difficult to collate accurately. Children may attend full, or part time and providers can have vacancies in ad-hoc sessions across the week.

Childcare providers across the city have expressed difficulties in recruiting and retaining high quality staff. This is a significant issue not only for the local authority but nationally in ensuring children have access to high quality early years provision.

In October 2023, the Early Years Team surveyed the private, voluntary, and independent providers (PVI) and reviewed the staff shortages of Early Years Practitioners for childcare providers to run at their registered capacity. It was identified as a city we are 82 members of staff below what is required for providers to run at capacity. This is an average of 1.5 staff members per provider that responded. Several

nurseries have reported they have been forced to reduce their numbers due to shortages of appropriately qualified staff.

The Early Years Team are working closely with recruitment agencies/organisations, early years training providers, and secondary schools to support the increase in those wanting to work/return to work in the early years sector.

The team are also promoting the Department of Education early years careers campaign (Do Something Big) on social media and via our Family Information Service website. The Family Information Service website includes an early years' careers page with information on qualifications and links to relevant local training providers. We have also created 7 case study videos promoting successful career pathways of local practitioners in the sector. These videos are accessible on our website and have been shared with job centres, recruitment agencies, training providers, higher education providers, local authority teams, secondary schools and we will continue to promote and encourage new participants to the market.

Alongside this the Hull City Council are part of the pilot in offering a recruitment financial incentive of £1,000 to new Early Years Practitioners or those returning to the sector after a minimum of 6 months. As of November 2024, a total of 21 recipients have been paid £1,000. This funding is available up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

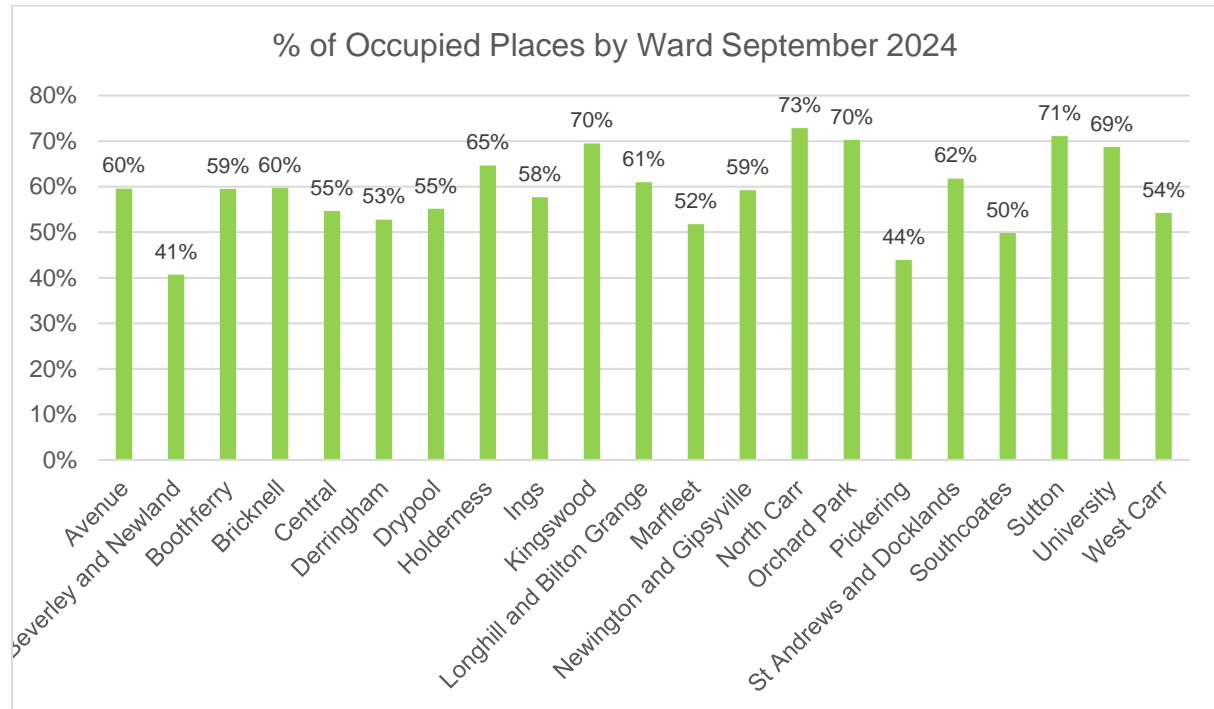
The reduction in the number of childminders offering wraparound provision to support working parents/carers before and after the school day has further reduced the availability for families to access childcare that meets their needs, many having to rely on informal childcare through friends and family. This was evidenced in the parent survey 2024, in section 3, as 19% were not able to access childcare that suited their working hours.

We will continue to work with the LA's Place Planning team to ensure that we are abreast of all new housing developments where young families may choose to occupy. And assess how this may impact on the need for additional childcare in those areas.

In September 2024 the Early Years Team collected data from all Ofsted registered childcare providers. The data was to ascertain the supply and take up by all children aged 0 to 4 years, including hours which parents pay for. The data has been collected consistently across all providers into part-time equivalent places (PTE). This process has enabled us to quantify how many vacancies there are across the market and the % occupancy rate by each age group across a full week.

## 5.1 Supply of childcare

Chart 16: Percentage of occupied places



Source: Primary data collected from all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Hull, September 2024.



**Table 3: Supply by ward**

Ward	Total Provision by Ward Autumn 2024 (PTE Places)			
	Total Number of Places	Total Occupied	% of Occupied Places	Total Number of Unoccupied Places
Avenue	596	355	60%	241
Beverley and Newland	321	131	41%	191
Boothferry	171	102	59%	69
Bricknell	351	210	60%	141
Central	506	277	55%	230
Derringham	607	321	53%	287
Drypool	494	272	55%	222
Holderness	494	320	65%	175
Ings	292	168	58%	124
Kingswood	42	29	70%	13
Longhill and Bilton Grange	385	235	61%	150
Marfleet	790	409	52%	381
Newington and Gipsyville	571	338	59%	233
North Carr	725	528	73%	197
Orchard Park	528	371	70%	157
Pickering	348	153	44%	195
St Andrews and Docklands	579	358	62%	221
Southcoates	376	187	50%	189
Sutton	504	358	71%	146
University	526	361	69%	165
West Carr	600	325	54%	275
<b>Total</b>	<b>9807</b>	<b>5807</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>4000</b>

Source: Primary data collected from all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Hull, September 2024.

There are vacancies in each ward across the city, therefore this demonstrates that there is sufficient accessible childcare for families. Although it may not be available at the parents first choice of provider. We know from the parent survey, chart 8, that 91% of parents were able to gain a place at their first choice of childcare.

The wards with the highest percentage take up are North Carr, Sutton, Orchard Park and Kingswood. Kingswood and Boothferry have the lowest number of vacant places. Both are supported by neighbouring wards and Boothferry is on the local authority boundary with the East Riding of Yorkshire.

The table above shows that, in total there are 41% vacant places across all in ranges in the city.

The tables below show the capacity and places occupied by age range in each ward.

**Table 4: 3 and 4 year old supply by ward**

Ward	3 & 4 Year Olds Autumn 2024 (PTE Places)			
	Number of 3&4 Year Old Places	Number of Occupied 3&4 Year Old Places	% of Occupied Places	Unoccupied 3&4 Year Old Places
Avenue	404	220	54%	184
Beverley and Newland	186	75	41%	110
Boothferry	123	73	59%	50
Bricknell	193	97	50%	96
Central	340	169	50%	171
Derringham	370	183	49%	187
Drypool	282	140	50%	142
Holderness	317	187	59%	130
Ings	256	134	52%	122
Kingswood	10	7	74%	3
Longhill and Bilton Grange	291	150	52%	141
Marfleet	562	240	43%	322
Newington and Gipsyville	378	221	58%	157
North Carr	477	325	68%	152
Orchard Park	355	243	68%	113
Pickering	250	105	42%	145
St Andrews and Docklands	361	209	58%	152
Southcoates	280	127	45%	153
Sutton	304	197	65%	107
University	312	181	58%	131
West Carr	468	230	49%	237
<b>Total</b>	<b>6518</b>	<b>3514</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>3004</b>

Source: Primary data collected from all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Hull, September 2024.

**Table 5: 2 year old supply by ward**

Ward	2 Year Olds Autumn 2024 (PTE Places)			
	Number of 2 Year Old Places	Number of Occupied 2 Year Old Places	% of Occupied Places	Unoccupied 2 Year Old Places
Avenue	123	85	69%	38
Beverley and Newland	90	27	30%	63
Boothferry	48	29	60%	19
Bricknell	66	49	74%	17
Central	106	73	69%	33
Derringham	147	85	58%	62
Drypool	131	82	63%	49
Holderness	106	72	67%	35
Ings	24	22	92%	2
Kingswood	14	5	38%	9
Longhill and Bilton Grange	68	62	90%	7
Marfleet	144	115	80%	29
Newington and Gipsyville	122	73	60%	49
North Carr	162	125	77%	37
Orchard Park	160	122	76%	39
Pickering	74	29	39%	45
St Andrews and Docklands	158	110	70%	48
Southcoates	74	47	64%	27
Sutton	99	81	81%	19
University	106	95	90%	11
West Carr	82	59	72%	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>2105</b>	<b>1447</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>658</b>

Source: Primary data collected from all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Hull, September 2024.

### Demand for September 2025 2 year olds

From the early education and childcare funding headcount we know in Autumn 2024 there are 855 working parents of 2 year olds accessing in Hull and 851 disadvantage 2 year olds who are accessing a PTE funded place in Hull. If all 855 working parent children increase to 30 hours from September 2025, we would need an additional 855 PTE.

The table above shows there are 658 PTE vacancies.  $855 - 658 = 197$  PTE places required for September 2025. However, if all 1,100 disadvantaged 2 year olds and 1,100 working parent children accessed their full entitlement we would require an extra 494 PTE places ( $1,100 - 855 = 245$  and  $1,100 - 851$  (number of children attending a Hull setting = 249) ( $249 + 245 = 494$ )). 197 PTE deficit plus the potential further 494 deficit = **691 PTE**.

Therefore, the **FTE additional places required is 346**.

***This is how we have calculated that we will need an additional 350 full time places in order to meet the expanded childcare offer to 30 hours in September 2025.***

**Table 6: Under 2's supply by ward**

Ward	Under 2 Year Olds Autumn 2024 (PTE Places)			
	Number of Under 2 Year Old Places	Number of Occupied Under 2 Year Old Places	% of Occupied Places	Unoccupied Under 2 Year Old Places
Avenue	69	51	73%	18
Beverley and Newland	46	28	62%	18
Boothferry	0	0		0
Bricknell	92	64	69%	28
Central	60	35	58%	25
Derringham	91	53	58%	38
Drypool	81	50	62%	31
Holderness	71	61	85%	11
Ings	12	12	100%	0
Kingswood	18	17	92%	2
Longhill and Bilton Grange	26	23	90%	3
Marfleet	84	53	64%	31
Newington and Gipsyville	71	44	62%	27
North Carr	86	78	91%	8
Orchard Park	12	6	52%	6
Pickering	24	18	77%	6
St Andrews and Docklands	60	38	64%	22
Southcoates	22	13	58%	9
Sutton	101	80	80%	20
University	108	85	79%	23
West Carr	51	36	71%	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1184</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>338</b>

Source: Primary data collected from all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Hull, September 2024.

The percentage of occupied places is much lower at 54% for 3 and 4 year olds than the 69% occupied for 2 year olds and 71% occupied for under 2's.

### Demand for September 2025 under 2 year olds

From the early education and childcare funding headcount we know in Autumn 2024 (October) there are 854 children under the age of 2 who are accessing a PTE funded place in Hull, this is an increase in 9 from the above table.

To ensure there is provision to access the increase to 30hours, this suggests we would need an equivalent of an additional 854 PTE places. The table above shows there are 338 PTE vacancies which leaves a shortfall of 521.

However, we know that 687 children included in the above table are paying privately and we expect that these paid hours will convert into funded hours (this information was provided to us directly from the childcare providers in September 2024). Therefore, assuming they are paying equivalent to part time hours this would suggest they are taking up 687 PTE places.  $687 - 521 = 166$  **PTE vacant** places available for parents who need to pay for childcare over and above government funded hours.

## 5.2 Readiness for September 2025

To meet our duty and ensure there are sufficient places for working parents to access their expanded offer of 30 hours we know from the above data that we need to create an additional 346 FTE places for children aged 2.

The number of places identified by the Department of Education in September 2024 in the Local Authority Readiness analytical report was 420. This is 74 more than our calculations. We are confident that our local data is more reliable.

To create the additional required places, the local authority has received capital funding of £427,000. As at November 2024, 11 providers have received funding to the total value of £135,000 which has created an additional 105 FTE places. Funding is available until Summer 2025. We will continue to encourage and support all providers to expand provision where there is an identified need.

Included in the 11 providers above, 3 schools have received funding to create places for 2 year olds. There are now 7 maintained nurseries providing provision for 2 year olds. We are aware that several schools are in the process of reducing their age range to offer 2 year old places in the future.

The government have also announced the first funding round for schools to apply for the School Based Nursery (SBN) grant of up to £150,000. If successful schools will be expected to increase capacity to deliver nursery provision to working parents over and above the usual school day. This will support the local authority to achieve the target of 346 FTE new places required by September 2025.

We will prioritise our commitment to ensure that there are sufficient places for 2 year old children eligible for 2 year funding via the disadvantage route. In the city around 30% of our 2 year old population are eligible for this offer. Therefore, it is imperative that these children are supported and encouraged to access high quality nursery provision.

Working parents predominantly require childcare beyond the school day (9am to 3pm). Therefore, to meet their needs their chosen provider is likely to be in the PVI sector. As a result of this our data shows there is a lower number of 3 and 4 year olds attending pre-school/nursery classroom which are only open 9am to 3pm.

PVI providers will be advised to talk to parents to encourage them to consider accessing a maintained nursery place for a minimum for 2 terms before the child is due start school. To increase flexibility, we have funded several schools to extend their day for nursery aged children out of the National Wraparound Childcare grant.

Without taking this action we could see the number of vacancies rise in the maintained sector and insufficient places in the PVI sector that meet the 'working parents' needs.

## 6. Early Years Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)

All early years providers in Hull have access to specialist advice from the Early Years Access and Inclusion team. Children's needs are identified early, and co-produced plans set in place to meet those needs. SENCO's and nursery practitioners are central to the process of early identification and have adopted person-centred planning approaches by working closely with families coordinating the involvement of health and care professionals.

There is no evidence to suggest that children with SEND cannot access provision of their choice.

The Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) is available to all providers for children 0 to 4 years who have been identified as requiring additional support. Funding is awarded following a panel review and agreed at an appropriate level.

**Table 7: Children receiving inclusion support funding**

Level	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/21
1 (100%)	72	82	66	69
2 (80%)	394	304	252	269
3 (60%)	73	81	67	98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>443</b>

Source: Early Years SEND Team Autumn 2024

There has been a significant increase in the number of children accessing early years setting with complex and medical needs. The table shows the increase over the last 4 academic years of children identified as being eligible for the SEN Inclusion funding and outreach support, whilst attending nursery.

The age range was also lowered to children from 9 months old in 2024, therefore it is expected that the number of children identified and supported will increase.

To view the full version of the SEND strategy and SEND Action Plan including the summary document please visit Hull's Local Offer website:

<https://hullsendlocaloffer.org.uk/early-years?categoryId=6>

## 7. Information for Parents: Family Information Service (FIS)

Hull City Council's Family Information Service (FIS) provides information, advice and guidance on childcare and activities available to children and young people aged 0-20 including:

- Ofsted registered childcare providers.
- Voluntary registered childcare providers.
- Early education and childcare funding including, government childcare offers and Tax Free Childcare.
- Advice on choosing a childcare provider including flexibility, opening hours, and location.
- The promotion of local events, activities, groups, and clubs suitable for children and young people.
- Support for childcare providers with marketing, business sustainability, market research and childcare sufficiency.

## 8. Sufficiency Action Plan

In preparation for the expansion of the 'working parent' offer from September 2025 we will continue to review the supply and demand of childcare places and the roll out of the National Wraparound Childcare Programme.

Action	Timescale
Mapping supply and demand for the expanded offer to working parents of 9 months to 4 years.	Ongoing: November 2024 to August 2025
National Wraparound Pathfinder Programme. Monitor and evaluate the rollout and expansion of the NWCP take up	January 2025 to March 2026
2 year old disadvantage children, ensure sufficient places are available for all eligible children.	Ongoing
Continue to promote and market all early education and childcare offers and continually engage with parents.	Ongoing

## 9. Summary

### 9.1 Take up of early education and childcare

The take up of early education and childcare 2 year old disadvantaged offer is 73%, which is lower than the national average calculated from the January 2024 Census of 75%. We understand that there are parents who are eligible via both the working parent route and the disadvantaged 2 year old route. We are encouraging parents to claim via the disadvantaged route as once eligible the funding continues, whereas the working parents' eligibility codes must be renewed every 3 months. When the working parent offer increases to 30 hours from September 2025 we expect that more parents will apply via this route.

The take up of the universal 3 and 4 year old offer is 92%, which is lower than the national average of 95%. The 2700 4 year olds reported as accessing a full time school place by the school data team cannot be validated for accuracy until the January 2025 Early Years Census is completed. If the number is higher this would increase the percentage above 92% and possibly justify why it is lower than the previous year. We will continue to promote the universal offer with a promotional campaign in the Spring Term along with greater engagement in the community.

Year on year we are seeing an increase in the number of families accessing the 30 hours extended offer for 3 and 4 years olds. The percentage this term is 35% which is an increase of 3% from last term.

The take up of the working parents expanded offer for 2's and under has been exceptional considering it has been the first year in which the entitlements began.

2 year olds working parent offer - 85% of potential eligible families accessed provision.

Under 2's working parent offer - 71% of potential eligible families accessed provision.

### 9.2 Government childcare expansions

The government introduced the working families childcare expanded offer of 15 hours for 2 year olds in April 2024. This extended to 9 month olds in September 2024. The roll out has been very successful as per the percentage uptake above.

There has been no sufficiency issues in the supply of places for working parents; 91% of parents surveyed were able to gain a place at their first choice of childcare provider.

We know from our data, detailed within the report, that we need to create 346 FTE 2 year old places by September 2025. This is in order to fulfil our duty to have sufficient places for the final phase of the working parent expansion.

11 providers, including 3 schools, have received funding to create an additional 105 FTE places. Capital expansion funding is available until Summer 2025, and we will continue to encourage and support all providers to expand provision where there is an identified need.



### 9.3 Wraparound childcare

The National Wraparound Childcare Programme is to financially support the expansion and creation of provision in or around every primary school, between September 2024 and March 2026, where there is no or limited provision available for working parents. The Early Years Team are working closely with local primary schools and providers to encourage participation. As of November 2024, the available grant funding has supported the increase of 884 places.

### 9.4 Marketing and promotion

A key role of the Family Information Service is to provide information, advice, and guidance on childcare to parents and carers. Throughout the year we have worked extensively with childcare providers, Family Hubs, health visitors, education providers, Job Centre, career services, and local authority staff. We also attend events held for parents and/or professional services across the city. Regular attendance at an event where we have been able to capture parents at the Hull Women's and Children's hospital 'expectant parents Carousel' has proved extremely successful.

We have rebranded and expanded our Family Information Services' website to allow parents/carers to access relevant childcare information at their leisure in an easy understandable format. We consulted with parents of the graphic designs and used those identified designs to attract parents. Information of the early education and childcare funding entitlements is accessible on the website with the relevant links to apply, along with guidance of how to choose a provider. There is also a section on the website for those considering a career in early years with promotional videos of those already working in the sector in Hull.

The website is continually a work in progress. The next stage is to provide the function for parents to search for childcare in their area via our directory. This is expected to be live in Spring 2025. We will then launch a promotional campaign working closely with our Communication and Marketing department.

### 9.5 Going forward

- Continually engage with providers and schools to meet the target of creating 346 FTE 2 year old places by September 2025. This is supported with the expansion capital funding and School Based Nursery grant funding.
- To continue to work closely with training providers and promote careers in early years. This will support the requirement to have an additional 48 early years practitioners in the city to fulfil our 346 FTE 2 year old places. This is calculated by 346 places required – 105 FTE recently created.  $241 / 5$  (1:5 2 year old ratio) = 48.

- Work with the PVI sector to encourage parents, where possible, to consider accessing a maintained nursery place for their 3 and 4 year olds for a minimum of 2 terms prior to starting full time school.
- Conduct a promotion campaign in Spring 2025 to introduce the Family Information Service website and to encourage take up of the early education and childcare entitlements.
- To continue to work with local primary schools and out of school clubs to increase the availability of wraparound childcare across the city and to continually assess supply and demand.
- To continue to assess the childcare market to ensure there are sufficient places. Whilst doing so, work with the local authorities Place Planning team to ensure we take into consideration all new housing developments that may have an impact of the need for additional childcare in those areas.
- To ensure children identified with SEND can access nursery provision with the appropriate support and funding in place.